

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138301

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, MNUC, TW

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR ISSUES WITH SECRETARY
GENERAL, ROC AEC

CINCPAC PASS POLAD

REF: TAIPEI 3364

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1. IN JUNE 5 MEETING WITH ROC ATOMIC ENERGY COUNCIL
SECRETARY GENERAL CHENG CHEN-HUA (VICTOR), DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GLEYSTEN NOTED PARTICULAR SENSI-
TIVITIES RELATED TO TAIWAN'S NUCLEAR STATUS AND UNDER-

LINED FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF THE ROC'S BEING BEYOND THE BREATH OF SUSPICION IN NUCLEAR MATTERS. GLEYSTEN STRESSED THAT THE ROC'S ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT TO A PEACEFUL PROGRAM IS AN ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE FOR CONTINUED US NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH THE ROC. HE REMINDED CHENG OF CONTINUED US OPPOSITION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL REPROCESSING PLANT ON TAIWAN. CHENG STATED THAT THE ROC APPRECIATED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING TO BE "HOLIER THAN THE POPE" IN NUCLEAR FIELD. HE DISAVOWED ROC INTEREST IN A REPROCESSING PLANT, NOTING THAT THE ROC'S CURRENT LABORATORY SIZE REPROCESSING FACILITY WAS SUITABLE ONLY FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES.

2. IN CONTEXT OF REVIEW OF RESULTS OF NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE, GLEYSTEN STATED US BELIEF THAT REPROCESSING NEEDS CAN BE MET MORE ECONOMICALLY AND MORE SAFELY THROUGH SUPPLIERS' SERVICES AND EVENTUALLY ON A MULTINATIONAL REGIONAL BASIS. WE STRONGLY SUPPORT IAEA STUDIES AND ONGOING INFORMAL PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE CONCEPT OF MULTINATIONAL REGIONAL REPROCESSING FACILITIES. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE SERIOUS THOUGHT BEING GIVEN TO UNDERTAKING FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF THIS CONCEPT FOR EAST ASIA. WHILE NOTING POTENTIAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS, CHENG EXPRESSED INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY REGIONAL APPROACH. HE NOTED DIFFICULTY OF RELYING UPON OUTSIDE SERVICES, GIVEN UNCERTAINTY OF US REPROCESSING POSTURE AND UK (BNFL) DECISION TO SUSPEND OFFER OF SERVICES TO TAIWAN. DEPTOFF ASSURED CHENG OF CONTINUED US INTEREST IN MAINTAINING FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES TO NUCLEAR CLIENTS.

3. CHENG REQUESTED US SUPPORT FOR RESUBMISSION OF COMPREHENSIVE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT COVERING TAIWAN TO IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS. HE SAID THAT PRESENT SAFEGUARD ARRANGEMENTS WERE TOO FRAGILE AND DID NOT PROVIDE ROC SUFFICIENT ASSURANCE OF CONTINUED ACCESS TO FUEL CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPLIES FOR ITS EXTENSIVE POWER PROGRAM. CHENG ALSO OUTLINED ROC INTEREST IN IN-COUNTRY FUEL FABRICATION FACILITY. GLEYSTEN RECALLED PAST OPPOSITION IN BOARD TO CONCLUSION OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT, EXPRESSED STRONG PERSONAL DOUBT THAT VOTE COULD BE OBTAINED IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT AGREED TO "DELICATELY PROBE" ISSUE.

4. IN SEPARATE TALKS WITH ERDA OFFICIALS (GILLER, HELFRICH, HUDGINS), CHENG MENTIONED ROC DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPANESE, KOREAN AND US FIRMS ON REGIONAL REPROCESSING POSSIBILITIES. HE INDICATED READINESS TO DELAY REPROCESSING BY STORING SPENT FUEL FOR NUMBER OF YEARS (FYI: AN IDEAL SOLUTION FROM USG STANDPOINT) AND THAT

GE IS LOOKING INTO THIS QUESTION FOR ROC. HE EMPHASIZED
ROC'S PRIME CONCERN WITH FUEL FABRICATION AND INTEREST
IN JOINT VENTURE.

5. FOR IAEA VIENNA: REQUEST MISSION COMMENTS AS TO
DESIRABILITY OF RESUBMISSION OF COMPREHENSIVE AGREE-
MENT PER PARA 3. WE ASSUME THAT SUBMISSION OF ANY
IAEA/ROC AGREEMENT TO THE BOARD WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY
BE REJECTED, AND MIGHT WELL TRIGGER ACTION TERMINATING
PRESENT IAEA SAFEGUARDS ACTIVITY IN ROC.

6. FOR TAIPEI: EMBASSY MAY DRAW UPON ABOVE AS
APPROPRIATE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GROC OFFICIALS.

KISSINGER

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